

PITTSFIELD, Mass. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) is urging the Environmental Protection Agency to take action to protect the public in the Houmatonic cleanup area.

In an Oct. 13, 2005 letter to EPA Regional Administrator Robert W. Varney, Olver requested he be "assured that the EPA is taking all necessary steps to protect the public in the Houmatonic cleanup area."

Efforts are underway by the EPA and the state Department of Environmental Protection to oversee a cleanup plan for the area.

The cleanup plan entails additional sampling of the subsurface area to detect the presence of any additional contamination.

Environmental advocacy groups and members of the Pittsfield Citizens Coordinating Council, the advisory committee for the area, have expressed concern over the cleanup plan.

Area residents and former GE employees have stated the area had been used in the 1940s and the 1950s for the production of munitions.

The text of the letter is below.

October 13, 2005

Robert W. Varney  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Varney:

I am writing to voice my concern over the recent discovery of additional contamination at the so-called "Houmatonic" area.

I have been monitoring the developments in this matter, and I'd like to be assured that the scope of the cleanup plan is adequate.

I also feel that the proposed techniques for sampling be comprehensive in light of the observation of many additional areas of contamination.

I recognize that the Consent Decree, as GE has noted, does not require additional cleanup activity beyond what is currently planned.

Sincerely,  
John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

cc: Dean Tagliaferro, EPA Project Manager  
Pittsfield City Council

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